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Nan Xie

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HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER/ORACLE

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PATEL, CHIRAG R

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/648,951	Applicant(s) XIE ET AL.	
	Examiner CHIRAG R. PATEL	Art Unit 2454	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-8,17-28,30-32,49-51,53 and 55-77 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-8,17-28,30-32,49,50,53 and 55-77 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 51 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 5-8, 17-28, 30-32, 49-51, 53, 55-77 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 55-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As per claims 55-77, the broadest reasonable interpretation of "computer-readable storage medium" directed to and covers both non-transitory tangible media and transitory propagating signals *per se*. Examiner suggests an amendment "non-transitory computer readable medium" This amendment would not be considered new matter.

See MPEP 2106, "See, *e.g.*, *In re Nuijten*, Docket no. 2006-1371 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 20, 2007)(slip. op. at 18)("A transitory, propagating signal like Nuijten's is not a 'process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter.' . Thus, such a signal cannot be patentable subject matter.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 17-28, 30-32, 49-50, 53, 55-75 and 77 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrlich et al. – hereinafter Ehrlich (US 2002/0156685) in view of Foerg et al. – hereinafter Foerg (US 2004/0044729).

As per claims 1, 49, and 55 Ehrlich discloses a method for handling requests for web services, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving at a web services broker, ([0079]) from a particular instance of a client application, ([0077]) a request for information, wherein said request includes an identification of a particular web service from which said particular instance wants said requested information, ([0079])

wherein the particular web service serves as the source of said requested information, and is separate from the web services broker; ([0068]; Figure 2: items 180, 185)

wherein the particular instance of said client application is separate from the web services broker in response to receiving said request, the web services broker ([0079]; Figure 2: items 100, 105)

accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to invoke said particular web service in a manner required by said particular web service, to obtain said requested information from said particular web service ([0080]; Figure 3B: item 390)

invoking, in said manner required by said particular web service, said particular web service to obtain said requested information from said particular web service; ([0088]-[0089]; Figure 3B :Item 395)

Ehrlich fails to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by said particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service;

accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, and

transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value, wherein changing said value includes performing a lookup operation, based on said value, to identify the changed value; and

wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said first parameter.

Foerg discloses the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by said particular web service to service requests for said

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information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service; ([0022], [0061])

accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, and ([0061]-[0062])

transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value, wherein changing said value includes performing a lookup operation, based on said value, to identify the changed value; and ([0154]; such as simple table lookup or one-to-one data value transformation)

wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said first parameter. ([0103])

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by said particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service; accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested

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information, and transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value, wherein changing said value includes performing a lookup operation, based on said value, to identify the changed value; and wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said first parameter.

The motivation for doing so would have been to integrate two or more application systems by using a declarative approach to application integration. ([0007])

As per claims 2 and 56, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 1. Foerg discloses further comprising the steps of: receiving, from said particular web service, said requested information; and transforming, based on said transformation information, said requested information to data that said client application can use. ([0015])

As per claims 5, 30, 57, and 73, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 1. Foerg discloses wherein said transformation information includes a mapping of first input data from a first particular client application to second input data that a first web service can use, and a mapping of first input data from a second particular client application to said second input data that said first web service can use, and wherein said first input data from said first particular client application has a different form than

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said first input data from said second particular client application. (0022]; [0061]-[0062])

As per claims 6, 31, 58, and 74, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 1. Foerg discloses wherein said transformation information includes a mapping of first input data from a first client application to second input data that a first web service can use and to second input data that a second web service can use, and wherein said first web service is different than said second web service. ([0061]-[0062]; [0154]; such as simple table lookup or one-to-one data value transformation)

As per claims 7 and 59, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 1. Ehrlich discloses further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

based on said transformation information, determining whether to use RPC style of communication or messaging style of communication to invoke said particular web service. ([0080]; The protocol broker 105 then chooses for each purchase request, the most appropriate protocol and communication mode)

As per claims 8 and 60, Ehrlich / Foerg discloses the method of Claim 1, and Ehrlich discloses further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

based on said transformation information, determining whether to use SOAP encoding to encode a communication for invoking said particular web service. ([0080])

As per claims 17, 50 and 61, Ehrlich discloses a method for handling requests for web services, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving at a web services broker, ([0079]) from a particular instance of a client application, a request for information, wherein said request includes an identification of a particular instance of said client application, ([0077])

wherein the particular web service serves as the source of said requested information and is separate from the web services broker; ([0068; Figure 2: items 180, 185)

wherein the client application is separate from the web services broker ([0079]; Figure 2: items 100, 105)

in response to receiving said request, based on said identification of said particular instance of said client application, the web services broker accessing transformation information; ([0080])

wherein said transformation information includes a mapping between said identification of said particular instance of said client application and an identification of said particular web service, ([0080]; the protocol broker 105 parses and analyzes the purchase request to retrieve the corresponding merchant protocol data from the merchant schema database 120; Figure 3: item 390)

the mapping indicating that said particular instance prefers said particular web service to service requests from said particular instance for said requested information; ([0080]; the protocol broker 105 parses and analyzes the purchase request to retrieve

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the corresponding merchant protocol data from the merchant schema database 120;

Figure 3: item 390)

wherein said transformation information specifies how to invoke said particular web service in a manner required by said particular web service, to obtain said requested information from said particular web service; and ([0080]; Figure 3B: item 390)

the web services broker invoking, in said manner required by said particular web service, said particular web service to obtain said requested information from said particular web service; ([0088]-[0089]; Figure 3B :Item 395)

Ehrlich fails to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by a particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to an input parameter required by the particular web service; wherein the particular web service serves as the source of said requested information and is separate from the web services broker;

wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information

based on said transformation information, the web services broker transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a

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changed value, wherein changing said value includes performing a lookup operation, based on said value, to identify the changed value

wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by the web services broker providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said input parameter.

Foerg discloses the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by a particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to an input parameter required by the particular web service; ([0022],[0061])

wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information ([0061]-[0062])

based on said transformation information, the web services broker transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value, wherein changing said value includes performing a lookup operation, based on said value, to identify the changed value ([0154]; such as simple table lookup or one-to-one data value transformation)

wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by the web services broker providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said input parameter. ([0103])

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At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Ehrlich to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by a particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to an input parameter required by the particular web service; wherein the particular web service serves as the source of said requested information and is separate from the web services broker; wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information based on said transformation information, the web services broker transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value, wherein changing said value includes performing a lookup operation, based on said value, to identify the changed value wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by the web services broker providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said input parameter.

The motivation for doing so would have been to integrate two or more application systems by using a declarative approach to application integration. ([0007])

As per claims 18 and 62, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 17. Ehrlich discloses wherein said identification of a particular instance of said client application includes identification of a user of said client application. ([0077])

As per claims 19 and 63, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of Claim 17, and Foerg discloses further comprising the computer- implemented step of:

passing said second input data as input to said particular web service to service said request. ([0103])

As per claims 20 and 64, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 19. Foerg discloses wherein said transformation information specifies a mapping between said first input data output from said client application and data that said particular web service can use as input to determine said requested information; and ([0061]-[0062], [0154]; ([0154]; such as simple table lookup or one-to-one data value transformation)

wherein said step of passing includes passing said second data, according to said transformation information, as input to said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0103])

As per claims 21 and 65, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of Claim 20, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said transformation information specifies a first manner in which said particular web service can be invoked to service requests for said requested

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information; ([0080]; Figure 3B: item 390). Ehrlich discloses wherein said step of passing includes passing said second input data in said first manner, to invoke said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0088]-[0089]; Figure 3B: item 395)

As per claims 22 and 66, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 21, and Ehrlich discloses

wherein said transformation information specifies a second manner in which said second input data is characterized so that said particular web service can be invoked to service requests for said requested information; and ([0080])

wherein said step of passing includes passing, according to said first manner, said second input data that is characterized according to said second manner, to invoke said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0088]-[0089])

As per claims 23 and 67, Ehrlich / Foerg discloses the method of claim 21, and Ehrlich discloses wherein the method of claim 22, wherein said second manner includes characterizing said second input data according to Simple Object Access Protocol. ([0079])

As per claims 24 and 68, Ehrlich / Foerg discloses the method of Claim 19, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said transformation information specifies a first manner in

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which said particular web service can be invoked to service requests for said requested information and a second manner in which said second input data is characterized in an invocation of said particular web service; and([0080])

wherein said step of passing includes passing, according to said first manner, said second input data that is characterized according to said second manner, to invoke said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0088]-[0089])

As per claims 25 and 69, Ehrlich / Foerg discloses the method of Claim 17, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said particular web service has characteristics that are described in Web Service Description Language. ([0080])

As per claims 26 and 70, Ehrlich / Foerg discloses the method of Claim 25, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said particular web service has characteristics that are published in a Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration registry. ([0080])

As per claims 27 and 71, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of Claim 17 and Foerg discloses further comprising the steps of: receiving, from said particular web service, said requested information; and transforming, based on said transformation information, said requested information to data that said client application can use. ([0022], [0061]-[0062])

As per claims 28 and 72, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of Claim 17, and Foerg discloses wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform a plurality of first input data each from a respective client application of a plurality of client applications, to a plurality of second input data each for a respective web service of a plurality of web services. ([0061]-[0062])

As per claims 32 and 75, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 31, and Foerg discloses wherein said first web service and said second web service can determine the same requested information, and wherein said second input data that said first web service can use is different from said second data that said second web service can use. ([0022],[0061]-[0062])

As per claims 53 and 77, Ehrlich / Foerg disclose the method of claim 1. Foerg discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform a plurality of first data each from a respective source of a plurality of sources, to a plurality of second data each for a respective web service of a plurality of web services. ([0061]-[0062], [0154])

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 51 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As per claims 51, a thorough review of the prior fails to disclose "wherein the request for information does not include any value for a second parameter required by said particular web service; wherein the step of transforming includes supplementing the first input data with a value for said second parameter."

Claim 76 contains allowable subject for similar reasons. (see 101 rejections)

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag R Patel whose telephone number is (571)272-7966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn, can be reached on (571) 272-1915.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

/C. R. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2454

/NATHAN FLYNN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit